

East County Intercom



Isiah Leggett, County Executive

Timothy Firestone, Chief Administrative Officer

Anise Key Brown, Director

Kim Bobola, ECCAB Chair

Newsletter

February 2008

EVENTS HELD AT THE EASTERN MONTGOMERY REGIONAL CENTER!

County Executive presents the FY 2009 Budget

On Wednesday January 16, County Executive Ike Leggett held the 3rd of six county-wide public forums, here at the Center, to discuss the Fiscal Year 2009 county budget. The meeting opened with remarks from Director Anise Key Brown who stated that the Forum was a continuing example of the Executive's responsible, accountable and transparent County government. Joe Beach, Director, Office of Management and Budget began with a presentation of the County's fiscal position and his office's projection that the County must cut \$400 million dollars from its budget in the next fiscal year, because of lower tax revenues and State appropriations.



County Executive shares a laugh with former East County Board Member, Dr. Betsy Matthews

Kim Bobola, East County Citizen's Advisory Board Chair introduced the Executive who was well received by those in attendance. Many of the 45+ residents in attendance endorsed continued funding of basic county services in East County for the Libraries, Recreation Centers and Ride On buses. Mr. Leggett was quick to pledge his support for these concerns. He additionally assured a group of Spring Brook High school students that he would not cut the free after school Ride On service currently available to MCPS students, but emphasized that *"we must get our financial house in order"*. To this end he has ordered a county-wide hiring freeze, exempting only critical Public Safety positions and will need to make many more difficult cuts before he transmits his proposed budget to the County Council in March.



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AARP Driver Safety Class - The AARP Driver Training class drew over 25 people to its class on Saturday, January 19th. The class, traditionally known as "55 Alive" is designed to enhance the skills of senior drivers, aged 50 and over. The 8 hour course was taught by John Nash, an AARP volunteer and East County resident, and is always a lively session full of very useful driver information. The additional benefit of taking the course is the 10% discount possible from your vehicle insurance carrier. For more information about Senior Driver Training classes, please go the AARP web site: www.aarp.org



Mortgage Foreclosure Issue Addressed - More than 50 people attended the Mortgage Pitfalls session held at the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center on January 24. Presentations were made by students of Howard University's Fair Housing Clinic informing attendees about fair housing matters and basic housing laws and rights. The Clinic is part of Howard University's School of Law and is made available through a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Also presenting was Civil Justice, Inc. a private, non-profit legal services program that targets predatory real estate practices and the protection of homeowners in foreclosure who have been victimized. Phillip R. Robinson, Esq. the program's Director, addressed predatory lending practices as well as opportunities for assistance when mortgage obligations are not able to be met. The event concluded with attendees being given the opportunity to meet individually with an attorney to get legal advice and direction. For many, this was a unique chance for them to share their personal circumstances and understand, from a legal perspective, what was happening and how to proceed. Other county initiatives are currently being planned to follow this lead, with similar community events to be held throughout the county in the upcoming months.

Educational and resource information, including *"Tips for Preventing Foreclosure," State Initiatives to Protect Home Ownership,* and a list of *"Mortgage Counselors"* may be picked up at the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center Information Room.



February 18th—President's Day

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Topics of Interest

- Update on Free ESOL & Spanish classes at EMRSC.
- East County Citizens Advisory Board Meeting Information
- The Peoples Community Wellness Center

Montgomery County Police Department

3rd District Police - Silver Spring
801 Silgo Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910
Tel # (301) 565-7740

Montgomery County Police Partner with "Public Engines" to offer Montgomery County Crime Reporting Service on the Internet

Montgomery County Police Chief J. Thomas Manger announced a new partnership with Public Engines, a software development company, to provide the ability to share neighborhood crime incident information through the Internet. For more information click on the link below:

http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Apps/Police/News/NA_details.asp?NaID=3843



FREE Citizenship Preparation Classes—The Montgomery County Refugee Training Program/Montgomery College will offer free Citizenship Preparation Classes beginning **February 5, 2008**. The classes will be held at the East County Community Recreation Center, 3310 Gateshead Manor Way, on **Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm**. Students in Citizenship Preparation Classes can prepare to become U.S. Citizens by studying for the three required tests – English, History/Government, and a face-to-face interview with an immigration (USCIS) officer. **Residents must have their Green Card to participate.** For information or to register, call 240-567-1404/1405

Luncheon for East County Apartment Managers - The Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center will be hosting its semi-annual luncheon for area Apartment Managers on **February 14th**. The event is part of the Center's East County Apartment Managers Partnership (ECAMP), a program designed to allow Montgomery County and apartment managers the opportunity to network regarding issues of concern to managers and residents of apartment communities. Guests from the Office of Landlord-Tenant Affairs and the Housing Opportunities Commission will be presenting. **If you are an apartment manager in the Fairland, White Oak, or Cloverly area and would like to receive an invitation, please call the Center at 240-777-8400**



Free ESOL Classes Offered in Eastern County - The Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center, in partnership with the Chinese Culture and Community Center, will host **evening ESOL classes** (English for Speakers of Other Languages) for adults on **Friday evenings beginning February 15th** and running for 16 consecutive weeks. Three classes will be offered – a "Beginner," an "Intermediate," and an "Advanced" class, all meeting from **6:00 pm to 8:30 pm**. The classes are open to anyone wishing to learn English and are *free with a refundable deposit and \$18 book fee*. The Center is located at 3300 Briggs Chaney Road in Silver Spring. To sign up for a class or to receive more information, call **240-777-8400**.

Volunteer Reading Tutors Needed!!! Help a Second Grader Learn to Read

Committed and caring volunteer reading tutors are needed to work with second graders at these local public schools: **Fairland, Cannon Road, Jackson Road and Broad Acres Elementary Schools**. Tutor a child in reading each week for one hour, either during or after school hours. Tutor training and support as well as all books and materials are provided at each school. You can make a big difference in a child's life because reading is the gateway to learning! To find out how to volunteer, contact Cynthia Rubenstein of Passion for Learning at 301-562-6014 or Peggy Graham at Montgomery County Public Schools at 301-279-3890. See also:

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/readingnetwork



Partner of the Month

Featuring Volunteer Friends of The Eastern Montgomery Regional Center

This is the third of a series of articles to recognize the volunteers and partners of EMRSC



We salute our volunteer friends to show our appreciation for improving the quality of life of others by providing a needed service. Because of their thoughtfulness and generosity our community is a better place for all of us to live.

Ernest Dow Jr. is a resident of the East County who has impacted people of our community in many ways. As the store Manager for the Briggs Chaney Safeway, Mr. Dow knows that there are "always opportunities to help." Through fundraising activities alone, he and the staff at Safeway raised over \$10,000 for charitable causes in 2007.

Since 2000, when Mr. Dow came to Safeway, the store has been partnering with the Faith Community Baptist Church in Layhill, contributing food for the church to provide meals for those in need. Food baskets and gift cards are donated through churches on a regular basis, given to people experiencing emergency needs. At various times you will find the Red Cross, DARE, White Canes, Girl Scouts or Boy Scouts set up at Safeway. The Lions Club, Washington Adventist Hospital, and Shepherds Table are other organizations who are aided through the hosting of drives to meet community needs for food, blood, and funds to fight cancer. Mr. Dow bases his commitment to helping others as "realizing our responsibility to our community." He finds additional opportunities to contribute through the St. Marks Episcopal Church where he serves on the vestry.

In response to the tragic apartment fire which took the lives of a mother and her 3 children in June 2007, Mr. Dow and the Safeway employees gathered donations totaling \$600.00 to assist the family with the funeral and burial costs. Safeway was also among several community organizations to help sponsor the first annual East County Jazz festival, a fundraising event for the People's Community Wellness Center held in June, 2007.

Ernie Dow has been a resident of this community since 1972 and currently resides in Silver Spring with his family.



Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see..... Mark Twain

Parenting Workshop Series Continues - "Parenting for Healthy Children," a workshop instructing parents on how to cultivate healthy habits and fight obesity in children, will be held on **February 27th from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm**. The first presentation will be provided by Rebecca Davis, Senior Agent in Family and Consumer Services for the Maryland Cooperative Extension. Her focus will be on the role of nutrition and physical activity. The second presentation is being provided by Marcus Taylor who administers the PHD (Physical, Healthy, and Driven) program for YMCA Youth and Family Services. He will share on the child's body composition and addiction awareness. The workshop will be held at the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center located at 3300 Briggs Chaney Road, Silver Spring. *Cost is \$10 per person or \$15 per couple*. For additional information or directions please call 240-777-8400.

Spanish Class Continues - The Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center will offer "Intermediate Level Spanish" on Monday evenings from **6 to 8 p.m., beginning March 3rd and running through April 21**. The class will meet at the Center, located at 3300 Briggs Chaney Road in Silver Spring. This will be a continuation of previous classes and students will need a basic knowledge of verb conjugation and sentence structure. The fee for the class is \$50 and includes the necessary learning materials. For more information, or to register, call 240-777-8400



Employment Services

Offered in East County - The Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center, in cooperation with the Montgomery Works Career Development Center, continues to provide employment assistance on the *third Thursday of each month*. The next day to receive assistance at the Center, located at 3300 Briggs Chaney Road in Silver Spring, is **February 21, between 8:30 am and 5:00 pm**. Individuals can get help with skill assessments; resume writing, interviewing, career planning, networking and using computers to find job opportunities. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 240-777-8400.

Free Income Tax Preparation (for Seniors and Moderate/Low Income Residents) beginning February 4, 2008 :

Call 240-777-2577 from **9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Mon - Fri.** for an appt.

Silver Spring locations are :

Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center, 3300 Briggs Chaney Road, 20904 (Bus Line: 39)

Long Branch Library, 8800 Garland Avenue, 20901 (Bus Line: 8)

Silver Spring Library, 8901 Colesville Road, 20910 (Bus Lines: 13, 14, 22, Z's)

White Oak Library, 11701 New Hampshire Avenue, 20904 (Bus Lines: C8, Z2, Z3)

Burtonsville location : Fairland Library, 14910 Old Columbia Pike, 20866 (Bus Lines: Z6, Z9). *(Sponsored by : RSVP of Montgomery County, AARP, US Internal Revenue Service, MD Income Tax Division)*



Thursday, February 7, Northwest Branch Recreational Park Master Plan Public Meeting is scheduled **7:00pm at Good Hope Recreation Center, 14715 Good Hope Road, Silver Spring, Maryland 20905.**

Topics to be discussed are

- Focus on the Plan-Potential for underdeveloped areas in north of Bonifant Road (re, family recreation areas).
- Future Trolley Museum and Verizon Tower Construction and the relationship to the Plan.
- Future Trial Connections.
- Plan schedule and future opportunities for community input.

Please join the Department of Parks and the Eastern & Mid County Recreation Advisory Boards to share your ideas for the future development of this Park. *For more info. call MNCPPC at (301) 650-4392.*

Notice of Public Forum on Proposed Service Reductions - In an effort to close a \$400 million budget gap Montgomery County Government is considering service cuts to Ride On. Ride On proposes change and/or discontinuation of some routes because of their weak performance.

Montgomery County hereby notifies the public and other interested parties that it will hold a public forum on **Monday, February 11, 2008 beginning at 6:30 p.m. and ending after the last speaker at the Council Office Building, Third Floor Hearing Room, located at 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland.** *In case of inclement weather, the date will be February 13, 2008.* For more information go to: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/dpwt/transit/disroutes.doc>

In Conjunction with the African American Health Program & Holy Cross Hospital



African American Heart Health Symposium

FREE Screenings Include:
♥ Cholesterol
♥ Glucose
♥ Blood Pressure
♥ Body Fat/BMI
♥ Waist Hip Ratio
♥ Oral Cancer

FASTING FROM MIDNIGHT IS PREFERRED FOR THE SCREENINGS. ANYONE WITH DIABETES SHOULD CHECK WITH THEIR HEALTH CARE PROVIDER ABOUT FASTING.

CHOLESTEROL & GLUCOSE SCREENINGS BETWEEN 7:30 AM - 9:00 AM ONLY

A FREE G.O.S.P.E.L. Program Event
(Glorifying Our Spiritual & Physical Existence for Life)

**Saturday, March 8, 2008
7:30 am - 2:30 pm**

Holy Cross Hospital
1500 Forest Glen Rd., Silver Spring, MD 20910
Free Parking

MC: Justine Love, WPGC 95.5 FM
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Patricia Davidson
Presentations On: Patient Advocacy, Tobacco Prevention & Cessation and Stress Management

Breakfast & Lunch Will Be Provided

Registration Required! Call (301) 754-8800
Space is limited - Register now!

Sponsors: • African American Health Program • American Heart Association • AMERIGROUP Community Care • Montgomery County Cigarette Restitution Fund Program • CTS • The Fix Solution • The G.O.S.P.E.L. Program • Holy Cross Hospital • Montgomery General Hospital • National Council on Patient Information and Education • Primary Care Coalition • Proyecto Salud • Shady Grove Adventist Hospital • Suburban Hospital • Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences • Washington Adventist Hospital

The G.O.S.P.E.L. Program
Glorifying our spiritual & physical existence for life

African American Health Program

HOLY CROSS HOSPITAL

SAVE THE DATE!
Saturday, March 29th



Presenting....
"SuperWoman Doesn't Live Here Anymore"

Join us in celebrating Women's History Month with **Barbara S. Talley**, Keynote Speaker, Poet, Author on **March 29th** at the **Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center** from **10:00 am - 2:00 pm**.

Fee : \$20.00

Pre-registration is required!

Space is limited. For further details and information, call # (240) 777-8413.

Primary Election February 12, 2008
2008 Electronic Voting Unit—We

have an electronic voting unit here at the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center for **dem-onstration** purposes. If you need assistance with the Maryland touch screen voting system, please visit our Center at 3300 Briggs Chaney Road, Silver Spring, Maryland. We are open Monday -Friday from 8:30 am-5:00 pm. We can be reached at # 240-777-8400





LIBRARY NEWS! CALENDAR OF EVENTS !

Fairland Library, 14910 Old Columbia Pike, Burtonsville, MD 20866 Tel 240-773-9460

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Apps/Libraries/branchinfo/branchevents.asp?branch=7>

White Oak Library, 11701 New Hampshire Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20904 Tel 240-773-9555

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Apps/Libraries/branchinfo/branchevents.asp?branch=22>

Election Judges Needed for the 2008 Primary and General Elections! The Montgomery County Board of Elections is looking for registered voters, 17 years or older, by Election Day, to work in the polls on Election Days as Election Judges. Training is provided and Election Judges receive a *stipend* for attending training and working. **Election Dates - Presidential Primary : February 12, 2008 ♦ General : November 4, 2008**

If you are interested please call # (240) 777-8500 or visit www.777vote.org

East County Citizens Advisory Board (ECCAB)

Guests are invited to attend the East County Citizens Advisory Board meetings and encouraged to ask questions & provide comments.

**Our next ECCAB meeting will be held at
the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center on**

Wednesday, February 6, 2008 at 7:15pm

For questions please contact : Tel (240) 777-8400 / TTY (240) 777-8418

Speaker : Officer Morris Dylan, 3rd District Police Station will give an update on Gang activity in the east county.



Meeting and conference room space is available at the Eastern Montgomery Regional Center.

*To reserve space, call the CUPF agency at
#(240) 777-2706*

To subscribe to our East County Newsletter, Programs & Events, click here
<https://ext01.montgomerycountymd.gov/entp/s1p/esubpublic/newssubscriber.do>

The Peoples' Community Wellness Center at EMRSC

A Cooperative Venture between the People's Community Wellness Center (TPCWC), Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center (EMRSC) and Mobile Med.

*If you have questions, please contact TPCWC at (301) 847-1172 or
www.pcw.onehealthylife.org*



FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY NEWS - go to

http://montgomerycountymd.gov/Apps/News/press/PR_list.asp

Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center

3300 Briggs Chaney Road

Silver Spring, MD 20904

Phone: 240-777-8400 / Fax: 240-777-8410

e-mail: eastco.citizen@montgomerycountymd.gov

web : <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/eastco>



FREE Compost Bins
available at EMRSC
Call 240-777-8400
M-F 8:30 am -5:00 pm

